

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 23-1921V

JOHN J. SCHRAMM III,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 14, 2025

Jeffrey S. Pop, Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates, Beverly Hills, CA, for Petitioner.

Irene Angelica Firippis, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On October 31, 2023, John J. Schramm III filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered the Vaccine Injury Table injury of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) that developed following an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on October 11, 2021. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 27, 2024, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On February 11, 2025, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$132,500.00 in pain and suffering, \$1,350.00 in unreimbursable expenses, and \$532.18 to satisfy the

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **Petitioner is awarded:**

- **A lump sum payment of \$133,850.00 (representing \$132,500.00 in pain and suffering and \$1,350.00 in unreimbursable expenses) to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to Petitioner.**
- **A lump sum payment of \$532.18, representing compensation for satisfaction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and:**

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Department of Human Services
 Bureau of Program Integrity
 Division of Third Party Liability
 Recovery Section
 P.O. Box 8486
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8486
 Attn: Jordan J. Marshall-Everson
 Ref.: CIS # 550266070**

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Department of Human Services for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
 Brian H. Corcoran
 Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

JOHN J. SCHRAMM III,)	
)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	No. 23-1921V
v.)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN)	
SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On October 31, 2023, John J. Schramm III (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) following the administration of an influenza vaccine he received on October 11, 2021. Petition at 1. On November 20, 2024, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a GBS Table injury, and on November 27, 2024, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 26; ECF No. 28.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$132,500.00** in pain and suffering.

See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of **\$1,350.00**. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B).

Petitioner agrees.

C. Medicaid Lien

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded funds to satisfy the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien in the amount of **\$532.18**, which represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made to or on behalf of petitioner from the date of his eligibility for benefits through the date of judgment in this case as a result of his alleged vaccine-related injury suffered on or about October 25, 2021 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

The above amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through lump sum payments as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

- A. A lump sum payment of **\$133,850.00** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

B. A lump sum payment of **\$532.18**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services
Bureau of Program Integrity
Division of Third Party Liability
Recovery Section
P.O. Box 8486
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8486
Attn: Jordan J. Marshall-Everson
Ref.: CIS # 550266070

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Department of Human Services for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Acting Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

VORIS E. JOHNSON
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Irene A. Firippis
IRENE A. FIRIPPIS
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 305-3250
irene.a.firippis@usdoj.gov

Dated: February 11, 2025